

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05842 061706Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 /081 W
-----062341Z 086641 /72

R 061442Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3647
INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5842

IO FOR PALMER

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

DEPT PLEASE PASS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, EG
SUBJECT: ISRAEL ISSUE AT ILO

REFS: (A) CAIRO 4500, (B) GENEVA 2491 (NOTAL), (C) CAIRO 5292

1. RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCES (ONE OF WHOM WILL BE ATTENDING
AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE) EXPRESS LITTLE DOUBT
THAT ARABS WILL BE ABLE TO WIN SUPPORT FOR REVIVAL OF
HOSTILE ISRAELI RESOLUTION DURING MEETINGS IN TRIPOLI.

2. ONE FACTOR IS RECENT AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHERE
AFRICANS AGREED THAT STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL IS AS MUCH
THEIR AS THE ARABS'. AFRICANS WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE DIFFICULTY
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05842 061706Z

DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM A UNITED ARAB POSITION FROM
IDEOLOGICAL STANDPOINT, BUT FACT THAT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR AFRICANS ARRIVED AT DURING SUMMIT ARE QUITE FLEXIBLE
WILL PROVIDE PRACTICAL METHOD OF SUASION. WE BELIEVE
SAUDIS SHOULD BE WATCHED CLOSELY IN THIS CONTEXT BUT,
GIVEN THEIR MINLABOR'S BEHAVIOR AT ALO CONFERENCE IN
ALEX (REF A), WE SEE LITTLE HOPE FOR VOLTE FACE.

3. SECOND CONSIDERATION IS AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17. OUR SOURCES SAY AFRICANS OPPOSE AMENDMENT VIGOROUSLY AS ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE STATUS OF ILO PLENARY. THEY EXPECT THAT, AT TRIPOLI, ARABS WILL SUCCESSFULLY CREATE LINKAGE BETWEEN ISRAEL/ARTICLE 17 ISSUES WHICH WILL WORK FORCEFULLY AGAINST US POSITIONS ON BOTH AT GENEVA.

4. WITH REGARD VIEWS OF ARAB MODERATES AS EXPRESSED TO BLANCHARD (REF B), HE SEEMS NOT TO APPRCIATE THAT PROBLEM IS LESS QADHAFI, AND HIS ABILITY TO ROUSE ARABS AND AFRICANS WITH FIERY RHETORIC, THAN INABILITY/UNWILLINGNESS OF ARAB MODERATES TO BREAK ARAB SOLIDARITY ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO ISRAEL. QADHAFI HAS LITTLE CLOUT WITH AFRICANS, IT USEFUL TO REMEMBER, AND ARAB POSITIONS WERE TAKEN AT ALEXANDRIA WITH NO MODERATE SPINE IN EVIDENCE.

5. AS CONCERNS EGYPTIANS, THE DEVIOUS MINMANPOWER BULTIYYA WILL BE HANDICAPPED BY HIS DUAL ROLES AS ICATU SEC GEN, WITH A MILTANT CONSTITUENCY, AND OFFICIAL REP OF GOE, WHICH WOULD EXPECT HIM NOT TO RUFFLE US FEATHERS TOO MUCH. HE MAY BE NEUTRALIZED BY THIS DICHOTOMY AND RENDERED IN-EFFECTUAL. BUT, SINCE HE LEAVES GOVERNMENT IN JUNE, HE MIGHT DECIDE TO PLAY MAVERICK, NEGATIVE ROLE.

6. CONSENSUS OF LOCAL SOURCES IS THAT BLANCHARD IS I FOR HARD GOING IN TRIPOLI AND THAT FIREWORKS ARE INEVITABLE AT JUNE ILO CONFERENCE. THEY TAKE VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO, IF SUCH WERE TO RESULT, WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 05842 061706Z

VICTORY FOR RADICALS AND UNDERMINE STATUS OF MODERATES IN FUTURE. US, WE ARE ADVISED, WOULD DO BETTER TO LET GALE SUBSIDE, LEND LESS WEIGHT TO POWERLESS RESOLUTIONS, AND STAY IN TO FIGHT AND WIN ANOTHER DAY.
MATTHEWS

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